

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-31 are currently pending for consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17-19 AND 31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY YAMAMOTO (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,923,337)

The Applicant's representative telephoned the Examiner on September 12, 2007 and discussed potential claim amendments. The Office Action states on page 4 that claim 2 is allowed. Claim 2 recites that:

said storage part storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same communication information, and

said image generating part reading a leading unit image group and a trailing image group which has a starting reference image approximately matching an ending reference image of the leading unit image group from said storage means and connecting the leading and trailing unit image groups.

During the telephone discussion, the Examiner stated that these features distinguish over the cited art. During the telephone discussion, the Examiner also indicated that she would likely enter the Amendment if the rejected claims were amended to recite the above features of claim 2. The rejected independent claims are amended accordingly herein. The Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for her assistance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 4, 6, 9-14, 16 and 20-30 are allowed over the cited art.

IV. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 09/356,445

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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